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MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Song will have an even larger part than usual to play this year in expressing the vital tidings of peace and good-will. We have in preceding issues spoken of the great opportunity which Christmas brings to the Supervisor. If you have kept a file of the Journal you will find in our four earlier November issues suggestions regarding sources of material, types of programs, carolling by the waits, and especially that great gathering when everybody is to sing, the Community Christmas Tree. In this number we wish to mention a new point of view. We shall not be able to duplicate all the material we have used in previous years. The signing of the armistice, the satisfactory conclusion of the peace negotiations, will not do away with the necessity for the continuation of the attitude toward German music which was described in our September, 1918, issue. The ideas which guided the editors of our Fifty-five Community Songs in the revised edition, which is just off the press, will continue to be vital for a considerable time to come. We must break the chains which have bound us, to our shame and humiliation, to many things German; we need to study the resources of the music of our allies and of ourselves. So, this year, resolve that you will not include in your carols Silent Night or any other German material which in former years has been made so readily available. Let us start early to find our material and thus avoid the temptation of falling back upon the familiar German carols. A little search, a little importuning of the publishers, will disclose splendid stores of English, French, Italian, and American material. Such striking out into new paths will repay us in many ways. Carry on!

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

About no other national song has there been so much discussion as about "The Star Spangled Banner." The fact that it is the official national song gives it a place of greatest importance. But there are other reasons which have caused the discussion. What is the proper version to sing? If there were an official version brought forth and sanctioned by Congress, or some equally authorized power, probably this uncertainty would disappear. Up to the present, however, no such action has been taken. We have, therefore, many versions of our national song. The printing of another in this issue requires an explanation.

When, five years ago at Rochester, the Supervisors inaugurated a movement for getting a few songs sung by all the people of the country, "The Star Spangled Banner" was, naturally, included. At that time the spirit of loyalty led the editors of our Eighteen Songs for Community Singing to adopt the version which had been formulated some time before by the Committee of the National Education Association. After over a year of experiments with this version, our editors were forced to conclude that this version was not a satisfactory one, and they made some modifications of the chorus. These modifications were so favorably received, and criticisms of the unmodified verse portion continued so violent that the editors decided to consider for the new edition of the Fifty-five Community Songs (which had succeeded our original eighteen) a thoroly revised version.

Two courses are open to any one who desires to publish a version of "The Star Spangled Banner," depending on the way he regards this song. If he considers it as a fixed product to be sung just as it was originally written, his test is simply to consult the original sources and to decide which one of these most nearly expresses the composer's idea. For this purpose Mr. Oscar Sonneck has placed at our disposal a scholarly investigation of the history of the "Star Spangled Banner" which has been published by the United States Government. If, on the other hand, he decides that the song belongs to the people and like all folk songs is subject to modification, his problem is to study the way in which the masses sing the song. This means that material is not considered as fixed, but as fluid, that the song has changed from its original form and that it may be subject to further modifications as the years go on. It is this latter point of

These words were written in 1814, while the author was detained on a British ship which was bombarding Bort McHenry. When morning came he saw that "our flag was still there" and it was then he wrote the lines of our national song.

2. The Star-Spangled Banner

Service Version

Prepared for the Army and Navy song and band books, and for School and Community singing, by a Committee of 12.*

Francis Scott Key

John Stafford Smith

With spirit. (♩ = 104)

O . . say! can you see, by the dawn's ear-ly light, What so proud-ly we hall'd at the
On the shore, dim-ly seen thro' the mists of the deep, Where the foe's haughty host in dread
O . . thus be it ev-er when free-men shall stand Be - tween their loved homes and the

twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the per-ill-ous fight, O'er the
sil-ence re-pos-es, What is that which the breeze, o'er the tow-er-ing steep, As it
war's des-o-la-tion! Blest with vic-t'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land Praise the

ram-parts we watch'd, were so gal-lant-ly stream-ing? And the rock-et's red glare, the bombs
fit-ful-ly blows, half cen-ceals, half dis-clos-es? Now it catch-es the gleam of the
Pow'r that hath made and pre-served us a na-tion! Then con-quer we must, when our

CHORUS. *f* (♩ = 96)
burst-ing in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O . . say, does that
morn-ing's first beam, In full glo-ry re-lect-ed now shines on the stream; 'Tis the Star-span-gled
cause it is just, And this be our mot-to: "In God is our trust!" And the Star-span-gled

Star-span-gled Ban-ner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
Ban-ner, O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
Ban-ner in tri-umph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

* The constituency of the Committee and a record of its deliberations may be obtained through the publishers of this book.

The membership of the joint committee of twelve was as follows: John A. Carpenter, F. S. Converse, Wallace Goodrich, Walter R. Spalding, representing the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities; Hollis E. Dann, Peter W. Dykema, Osbourne McConathy, representing the Music Supervisors' National Conference; and C. C. Birchard, Carl Engel, W. A. Fisher, A. E. Johnstone, E. N. Newton, representing music publishers. Mr. Dykema acted as chairman and to him questions regarding the version may be addressed.

view which animated the Joint Committee of twelve representing Supervisors, Commission on Training Camp Activities, and Music Publishers, to prepare the version which we are printing.

In order to determine what the people would sing, careful observation was made upon great numbers of singers in many parts of our country. While both men and women in separate and in mixed groups were observed, special studies were made of the soldiers in the great camps. The song leaders were asked to gather their men in groups of various sizes and to start them singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and to allow them to continue it without conducting. The song leaders were then to jot down the version as it emerged from the masses. While, naturally, there were many divergencies in this group singing, there were a few striking facts that emerged. One is that the American people seem to have a genius for the unequally divided beat, that is, the dotted note. Whether or not this is connected with our liking for "rag time" may be a debatable question, but the tendency is certainly there. The N. E. A. version therefore, instead of simplifying the song by wiping out dotted eighth and quarter notes, made it more difficult, because more foreign to our natural tendencies.

The story of the deliberation of this Committee of Twelve, is a story of many earnest hours of investigation and discussion. From the conferences came the version as printed. It was comparatively easy by following the folk song idea to arrive at a satisfactory version of the melody. The question of harmony could not so easily be determined by reference to the singing of the people because the Star Spangled Banner with us is essentially a unison song. The Committee had great difficulty in arriving at a suitable harmonization.

Here is a version that in the opinion of the Committee is sensible, dignified, and simple. It will undoubtedly be widely used. Whether it is the final version can be settled only by the real judges of all folk material—time and the people.

All of the above statements are purely personal expressions of the Editor of the Journal and are not to be taken as a formal statement of the position of either the General Committee of Twelve which made the version.

SINGING AND MARCHING

One of the most valuable features of the music in the army camps is singing on hikes. We ought to appropriate this idea to a much greater extent than most of us have done to our work in Public School music. Why not take the children outdoors upon the playground or around the block for a hike with singing? Why not have dismissals with unaccompanied singing by the children instead of using instrumental music all the time? Why not mark time and sing in the class room if nothing better can be arranged? Will the occasional use of these exercises both add interest to our work and serve to strengthen the rhythmic sense of our children? In doing this singing do not neglect the Army Song Leader's device for continuous singing—the song-medley. Select from the marching songs which the children know four or five which may be sung in the same key and have them sung one after the other without intervening pauses.

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE OUR FRIENDS

The money which prints and distributes the Journal comes entirely from the proceeds of our advertising. You should read these announcements even if this were not the case. An important part of our professional work is keeping acquainted with the material which is available for our teaching. Publishers are far more alive than most of us are in seeking new ideas. We ought to be ready to look at anything they are willing to risk printing. And this statement applies not only to the new material which is steadily pouring out but to the standard publications which have been on the market for several years. It has been said that no person knows a language until he has studied a second one. Is it not just as true that no Supervisor knows the Series she is teaching unless she has worked with another Series? So, read the advertisements, write the Advertisers, and don't forget to mention the Journal.